

## AIKEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 Brookhaven Drive  
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

**GRADES** PK-12

**ENROLLMENT** 24,108 Students

**SUPERINTENDENT** Dr. Linda B. Eldridge 803-641-2428

**BOARD CHAIR** Dr. John B. Bradley 803-641-2431

**FISCAL AUTHORITY** District Board

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

# 2003

#### ABSOLUTE RATING:

**GOOD**

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
0	11	5	0	0

#### IMPROVEMENT RATING:

**BELOW AVERAGE**

#### ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

**N/A**

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

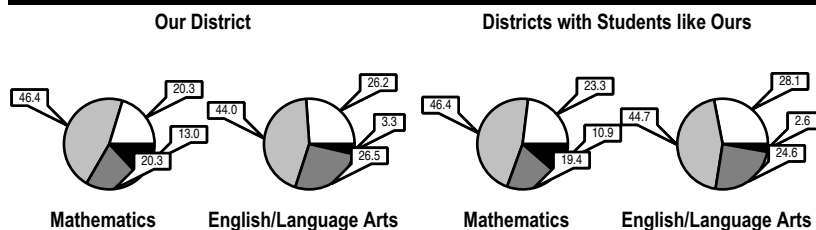
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:**





**[WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM)**

**[WWW.SCEOC.ORG](http://WWW.SCEOC.ORG)**

**PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD**

	<b>Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Improvement Rating</b>	<b>Adequate Yearly Progress</b>
2001	Good	Below Average	N/A
2002	Good	Below Average	N/A
2003	Good	Below Average	N/A
2004			

**PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS****Definition of Critical Terms**

	<b>Advanced</b>	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	<b>Proficient</b>	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	<b>Basic</b>	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	<b>Below Basic</b>	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

**NOTE:** Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

**TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM**

	<b>Our District</b>			<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>		
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Passed all 3 subtests</b>	72.3	73.5	73.7	71.3	69.4	69.2
<b>Passed 2 subtests</b>	16.4	14.4	13.9	16.4	15.9	16.9
<b>Passed 1 subtest</b>	7.0	7.8	7.0	7.9	9.2	8.9
<b>Passed no subtests</b>	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	5.6	4.5

**ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS**

<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Our District</b>	<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>
<b>Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*</b>	20.1	15.6
<b>Seniors who met the SAT requirement</b>	20.6	16.8
<b>Seniors who met the grade point average</b>	49.3	55.9

\*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP**

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
<b>English/Language Arts</b>								
All students	11,695	98.9	26.2	44.0	26.5	3.3	29.8	17.6
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	5,955	98.6	31.9	43.1	22.7	2.3	25.0	17.6
Female	5,740	99.3	20.3	44.9	30.5	4.3	34.8	17.6
<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>								
White	7,022	99.1	18.5	43.1	33.6	4.7	38.4	17.6
African-American	4,210	98.7	38.7	45.9	14.6	0.8	15.3	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	79	100.0	14.8	38.3	37.0	9.9	46.9	17.6
Hispanic	322	97.5	37.0	40.8	20.8	1.5	22.3	17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	33	100.0	20.7	51.7	27.6		27.6	17.6
<b>Disability Status</b>								
Not disabled	10,141	99.3	22.9	44.2	29.2	3.7	32.9	17.6
Disabled	1,554	96.7	50.0	42.7	6.9	0.4	7.3	17.6
<b>Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant		0.0	41.5	48.8	7.3	2.4	9.8	17.6
Non-migrant	11,695	98.9	26.1	44.0	26.6	3.3	29.9	17.6
<b>English Proficiency</b>								
Limited English proficient	97	94.8	64.1	33.3	2.6		2.6	17.6
Non-limited English proficient	11,598	99.0	25.7	44.1	26.9	3.3	30.2	17.6
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>								
Subsidized meals	6,036	98.5	37.5	46.1	15.7	0.7	16.4	17.6
Full-pay meals	5,659	99.4	15.0	42.0	37.2	5.8	43.0	17.6

<b>Mathematics</b>								
All students	11,695	99.5	20.3	46.4	20.3	13.0	33.3	15.5
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	5,955	99.4	21.3	45.3	19.5	13.8	33.4	15.5
Female	5,740	99.5	19.2	47.5	21.2	12.1	33.3	15.5
<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>								
White	7,022	99.5	12.5	43.9	25.2	18.4	43.6	15.5
African-American	4,210	99.5	33.2	51.4	11.8	3.7	15.4	15.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	79	98.7	8.6	33.3	29.6	28.4	58.0	15.5
Hispanic	322	99.7	31.7	40.3	19.8	8.2	28.0	15.5
American Indian/Alaskan	33	100.0	13.8	51.7	17.2	17.2	34.5	15.5
<b>Disability Status</b>								
Not disabled	10,141	99.7	17.0	46.4	22.3	14.3	36.6	15.5
Disabled	1,554	98.0	44.6	46.2	6.0	3.1	9.1	15.5
<b>Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant		0.0	34.1	36.6	17.1	12.2	29.3	15.5
Non-migrant	11,695	99.5	20.2	46.4	20.4	13.0	33.3	15.5
<b>English Proficiency</b>								
Limited English proficient	97	100.0	50.0	33.8	15.0	1.3	16.3	15.5
Non-limited English proficient	11,598	99.5	20.0	46.5	20.5	13.1	33.6	15.5
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>								
Subsidized meals	6,036	99.3	30.0	51.7	13.7	4.7	18.3	15.5
Full-pay meals	5,659	99.7	10.8	41.2	26.9	21.1	48.0	15.5

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

N/A Not Applicable

N/C Not Collected

N/R Not Reported

I/S Insufficient Sample

**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL**

		Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced and Proficient
English/Language Arts							
2002	Grade 3	1,805		16.8	38.3	41.0	44.9
	Grade 4	1,940		18.5	46.6	33.0	34.9
	Grade 5	1,830		23.6	49.0	25.5	27.3
	Grade 6	1,776		26.9	42.3	25.2	30.8
	Grade 7	1,856		21.5	48.4	26.3	30.1
	Grade 8	1,794		26.6	45.1	22.3	28.4
2003	Grade 3	1,869	98.8	16.5	36.9	42.0	46.6
	Grade 4	1,978	99.2	22.2	44.2	30.8	33.6
	Grade 5	2,093	98.9	28.5	48.0	22.3	23.5
	Grade 6	2,004	99.0	33.2	37.7	24.0	29.1
	Grade 7	1,892	98.6	28.6	48.0	21.2	23.4
	Grade 8	1,859	99.1	27.4	49.2	19.7	23.4
Mathematics							
2002	Grade 3	1,805		21.4	42.9	21.8	35.7
	Grade 4	1,940		22.9	38.3	22.4	38.8
	Grade 5	1,830		26.7	40.2	20.8	33.0
	Grade 6	1,776		25.3	42.9	19.8	31.8
	Grade 7	1,856		33.3	31.8	16.7	34.9
	Grade 8	1,794		29.6	45.8	14.1	24.5
2003	Grade 3	1,869	99.6	13.7	52.8	21.0	33.5
	Grade 4	1,978	99.8	15.6	45.4	22.9	39.0
	Grade 5	2,093	99.4	24.3	47.6	19.0	28.1
	Grade 6	2,004	99.5	19.7	38.5	24.6	41.7
	Grade 7	1,892	99.2	25.4	43.3	17.3	31.3
	Grade 8	1,859	99.5	23.2	51.0	16.7	25.8

**STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL TESTS**

**Terra Nova:** a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percentage of students scoring in the upper half, 2002								
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

\* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

**National Assessment of Educational Progress:** a national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percent of students scoring										
Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32	25
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18	14
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45	34

**PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS**

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>All Students</b>	1,482	95.5%	1,266	20.1%	1,547	75.4%
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	707	94.6%	618	21.0%	788	69.4%
Female	763	96.6%	648	19.3%	759	81.7%
<b>Race or Ethnic Group</b>						
African American	431	89.6%	370	3.2%	507	64.5%
Hispanic	25	88.0%	20	0.0%	27	70.4%
White	997	98.4%	858	27.7%	993	81.1%
Other	3	I/S	18	22.2%	20	80.0%
<b>Disability Status</b>						
Non-speech disabilities	43	79.1%	80	1.2%	151	24.5%
Students without disabilities	1,428	96.1%	1,186	21.4%	0	80.9%
<b>Migrant Status</b>						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	263	95.4%	1,266	20.1%	0	N/A
<b>English Proficiency</b>						
Limited English proficient	3	I/S	4	I/S	8	50.0%
Non-LEP	1,460	95.6%	1,262	20.2%	1,538	75.6%
<b>Lunch Status</b>						
Subsidized meals	386	90.7%	331	3.6%	467	63.8%
Full-pay meals	1,076	97.3%	935	26.0%	1,080	80.5%

\* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

**2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS**

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	503	500	517	508	1020	1008
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	19.4	19.6	19.8	20.4	19.8	20.1	20.0	20.2	19.9	20.2
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

**SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"**

	2002	2003		2002	2003
Greendale Elementary	Yes	Yes	Cyril B Busbee Elementary	Yes	Yes
N. Aiken Elem./Pinecrest	Yes	Yes			

**DISTRICT PROFILE**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>Students (n= 24,108)</b>				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	5.2%	Down from 5.5%	4.3%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.0%	Down from 95.7%	95.5%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	20.0%	Down from 20.2%	14.9%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	8.5%	Down from 8.8%	11.5%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	5.1%	Up from 4.7%	4.2%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	1.0%	Up from 0.9%	1.8%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	26.6%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	674	Up from 478	276	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	200	Up from 142	81	40

<b>Teachers (n= 1,610)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	38.7%	No change	48.8%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	83.4%	Up from 81.0%	84.6%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	91.3%	No change	90.4%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	N/R	N/R	94.9%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$40,235	Up 1.3%	\$40,312	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	8.1 days	Up from 7.9 days	10.6 days	11.3 days

<b>District</b>				
Superintendent's years at district	8.0	Up from 7.0	4.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	20.3 to 1	Up from 18.6 to 1	21.4 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	N/R	N/R	89.5%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$6,403	Up 7.0%	\$7,017	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	60.8%	Up from 58.1%	56.7%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	89.2%	Up from 88.4%	98.2%	96.1%
Number of schools	39	Up from 37	15	8
Number of magnet schools	2	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	2	Up from 0	0	0
Portable classrooms	9.4%	Down from 9.8%	3.5%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	30	N/A	26	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	37	N/A	14	8

\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

<b>N/A</b>	Not Applicable	<b>N/C</b>	Not Collected	<b>N/R</b>	Not Reported	<b>I/S</b>	Insufficient Sample
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**SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE****Board Membership**

9 trustees elected to single-member seats

**Fiscal Authority**

District Board

**Average Number of Hours of Training Annually** 96.0 per board member**Percent new trustees completing orientation** 100.0%**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The past school year has been marked again by significant academic achievement. We are very proud of the progress our students have made and continue to make. Consider these successes from the past year:

The average SAT score for graduating seniors in the class of 2002 was 1020. This score represents a 12-point increase over the previous year and shows a 49-point increase since 1995. Our community is very proud. This is the first time in history that the SAT average met the national average. Approximately 60 percent of our students take the SAT each year. Students in Aiken County perform significantly better than the nation in Reading, Language, and Mathematics as measured by TerraNova, a nationally normed achievement test. All grade levels exceeded the national 50th percentile. Students in grades three through eight have shown improvement over four years on the rigorous Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT), a state-required test. Seventy-seven-point-eight (77.8) percent of the students met standard on the English/Language Arts test and seventy-three-point-five (73.5) percent met standard on the Mathematics test. Most of our students are meeting state standards and continue to perform above the state average.

Eighty-four-point-one (84.1) percent of the tenth-graders passed the South Carolina High School Exit Examination in Mathematics, and eighty-seven-point-five (87.5) percent in Reading. Well over ninety (90) percent of our seniors meet the requirements each year to graduate (which requires passing the state examination). Nearly seventy (70) percent of our graduating seniors enter a post-secondary institution and pass over ninety (90) percent of the course work their freshman year. School Match, a non-profit Chicago-based research firm that reviews data from the nation's 15,893 school systems, has selected this school system for the sixth consecutive year as an award-winning educational system.

As superintendent of schools, I can assure you that it is the goal of the Aiken County Board of Education to provide quality educational opportunities for all students. There is work to be done in all our schools. Our eyes are focused on continuous improvement. Our progress is real. Aiken County educators, parents, students and communities are providing that focus, and hard work pays off in undeniable progress.

Dr. Linda B. Eldridge, Superintendent

**DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS**

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal